

# Plumas-Sierra Noxious WEEDS Management Group

“*We Eradicate Exotic and Detrimental Species*”

## Notes of November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2002 Meeting

### In attendance:

Allan Abrams	Ed Finley
Celeste Avila	Gail Frazier
Jim Belsher-Howe	Tim Gibson
Karl Bishop	Holly George
Chris Christofferson	Rob Katz
Linda Conrad	Debbie Rexroth
Bob Farnworth	Erick Walker

Karl called the meeting to order at approximately 10:10 a.m. at the Plumas-Sierra Department of Agriculture's Boardroom, 208 Fairgrounds Road, Quincy, California. The meeting notes of September 18th, 2002 were approved with no corrections or additions.

### SB1740 Project Updates

#### YST Control on Private Lands Cooperative Project

Celeste reported she has incorporated all data and stated there are interesting results, especially the widely varied rates transline was applied. She reported the Ruberts property is YST free and the surrounding properties are full of YST.

Karl stated he would like a decision from the group for this coming year's program. Since we have just completed the second year, for the third year he would like to continue the program and discontinue the workshop portion and do consultation, evaluation, and regulatory functions on a one on one basis. Karl stated funds are available for *transline* for the coming year and would like to expand outreach and program participants. Karl also directed Tim to obtain from the YST participants any unused *transline* from this year's program.

Holly discussed her concerns on the wide variety of herbicide rates that were being applied and the wide window of when it was being applied which she believes needs to be worked out. Holly stated the group is supplying the *transline* and the group and county are doing a great job and the landowners need to step up the plate, discussion occurred.

Chris inquired on how does a private landowners obtain herbicide such as *telar* or *transline*? Karl replied with clarification and explained some of the laws and regulations that apply.

#### Perennial Pepperweed on Private Lands Cooperative Project

Karl reported the Perennial Pepperweed on Private Lands Cooperative Project workshop will be held a lot earlier this year. Tim stated the window for spraying perennial pepperweed is June/July, which is a bad time of the year because everyone is basically busy. The Plumas-Sierra Pesticide Continuing Education Seminar is set for late January, therefore possibly March or early April will be a good time for the perennial pepperweed workshop. Tim stated that perennial pepperweed is easy to find in Sierra Valley and the herbicide generally used is *telar*.

Holly stated there should be plenty of lead-time, repeated exposure, and major notification. She also suggested notifying Sierra Valley Water Company and other entities for the waterways.

Allan suggested education and identification on hoary cress especially determining the difference between hoary cress and perennial pepperweed. Karl stated the workshop will include perennial pepperweed education and control methods with an educational component on hoary cress. Karl explained to the group the herbicide telar has many restrictions, which will also be covered in the workshop.

Rob gave some speaker suggestions for the workshop, discussion occurred.

### **Reports/Plans**

Tim reported if anyone is interested in reviewing the draft SB1740 quarterly report, which covers two quarters, he has copies available. He stated Steve Schoenig, CDFA prefers these reports to be brief. Tim also reported he is working on in-kind hours especially in-kind hours on the state level. Karl explained how important in-kinds hours are and gave an example from The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant where we lost over \$5,000 due to conditions of the grant being changed regarding in-kind hours.

Tim reported 143 sites were treated for a total of 642 acres, which excludes the YST Control on Private Lands Project.

### **Roadside**

Linda reported scotch broom is the hot ticket now, although she did spray some yellow starthistle last month. Linda reported she and Tim have been trying a new basal treatment and are observing quick results. They are finding many new sites, she found out if you spot a couple plants keep looking and more than likely you'll find more close by. One site in Graeagle reported by Mike DeLausx of the Farm Adviser's office is in a residential area, Mike suggested that when the Fire Safe Council has their meeting with the homeowners association, and we could possibly attend and share information on scotch broom.

Rob reported on a site on Highway 70 in Portola in which two plants of scotch broom were found and pulled. He also supplied a map to Karl on another scotch broom site in Strawberry Valley on Forest Service land and county roads.

Karl stated the scotch broom on Ridge road from the Sierra County line to highway 49 contains one spot of at least a solid ½ mile of solid scotch broom that we will start treating. Karl also reported on the state's budget cuts, and where major slashing is happening with a 24 million short fall and a lot of shifting of funding being done.

Allan commended Tim and Linda for doing a great job out in the field and the Cattlemen will speak out if budget cuts affect this department.

### **WWF**

Karl reported on the Weed Free Forage program and stated two meetings have been conducted as a collaboration effort and still not going anywhere. The project is not receiving much support from the hay industry, wanting to raise the bar, everyone is going to want it, creating more costs. There is no consensus from the back country horsemen regarding the standards. It looks like we are going back to square one, with a request to the Forest Service and other federal agencies to tell us what they want

and then determine if we can then meet their needs. The next meeting of the steering committee probably will not be held until the Forest Service gives CDFA and Ag Commissioners more direction. Discussion occurred on issues such as NEPA documents, counties selling weed free hay, and the cost of weed free hay.

### **2002 Strategic Plan**

This agenda item was moved to the next meeting.

### **PNF Noxious Weed Treatment Proposed Action**

Chris reported that not a whole lot of movement has taken place on the proposed action, it being put on the back burner due to other priorities. The next step is to take the maps and incorporate them into the proposed action. Chris suggested possibly getting together with Karl and Linnea to discuss a time line.

### **California WMA Annual Meeting**

Chris reported he attended the California Weed Management Areas Annual Meeting. Chris informed the group there were some great proposals for eliminating weeds, information on bio-control progress, and Dr. Steve Young spoke on natural based products.

### **Noxious Weed Brochures**

Celeste reported the Yellow starthistle, Scotch broom, and Medusahead brochures have been completed and were handed out. Debbie reported these brochures were printed though funding from the High Sierra R C & D, and still have \$2,000 allocated from SB1740 for additional printing and Caltrans has also indicated they can print some for us also. She stated that we are also going to be creating spotted knapweed and perennial pepperweed brochures.

### **Additional Items**

Karl passed out before pictures from Fred Kent on the Turner Canyon Dalmatian toadflax site. Rob reported on the Tree of Heaven, which is located on Hwy 70, 31 miles west on the south side of Roger's flat.

### **Next Meeting**

*The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2003 at 10:00 a.m.* It will be held at the Plumas-Sierra Department of Agriculture Conference Room, 208 Fairgrounds Road, in Quincy, California. Agenda items may be submitted in advance or on the day of the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:50 am.

Meeting notes submitted by Debbie Rexroth, Plumas-Sierra Counties Department of Agriculture